

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
HA-05 BIB-01 /067 W
-----065289 192101Z /70

O 192023Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3168
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, US, SP
SUBJECT: REACTION TO USG STATEMENTS ON COMMUNIST
PARTICIPATION IN WEST EUROPEAN GOVTS

1. LOCAL REACTION UNTIL JAN. 19 TO USG STATEMENTS IN
OPPOSITION TO COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WEST EUROPEAN
GOVTS HAD BEEN LARGEMLY PRO-FORMA, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF
EXTREMELY NEGATIVE EDITORIAL IN RESPECTED LEFT-LIBERAL
"EL PAIS" (SEE BELOW). HOWEVER, SENSATIONALIST MADRID
DAILY "DIARIO 16" ATTEMPTED JAN. 19 TO WHIP UP FUROR
BY ALLEGING THE EXISTENCE OF AN OFFICIAL USG DEMARCHE
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TO THE GOS NOT ONLY PUTTING IT ON NOTICE THAT WE OPPOSE
PCE PARTICIPATION IN GOVT, BUT "IMPLICITLY EXPRESSING
ITS DISPLEASURE OVER THE MONCLOA PACT," SINCE IT INCLUDES
THE SPANISH COMMUNISTS. (THIS EMBASSY AND OFFICIAL
FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMEN HAVE DENIED THAT ANY SUCH
US DEMARCHE HAS BEEN MADE--SEPTEL.)

2. GOVT AND UCD PARTY LEADERS HAD NOT EXPRESSED THEM-SELVES UNTIL TODAY ON THIS ISSUE. BUT "DIARIO 16" REPORTS THAT UCD PRESS SECRETARY GUILLERMO MEDINA RESPONDED TO ITS ALLEGATIONS BY STATING THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY JUDGMENT ON CHARGES OF US INTERVENTION, SINCE HE KNEW OF NO SUCH OFFICIAL DEMARCHE. HE REPORTEDLY WENT ON TO STATE THE OBVIOUS: THE PCE'S PARTICIPATION IN GOVT IS NOT AT ISSUE, IN VIEW OF ITS MODEST SHARE (LESS THAN 10) OF THE JUNE 1977 VOTE.

3. THE PSOE, FOR ITS PART, HAS THUS FAR MADE LITTLE COMMENT ON THE STATEMENTS. PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL FELIPE GONZALEZ, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS IN BONN, REPORTEDLY SAID THAT, WHILE EVERYONE HAD THE RIGHT TO MAKE WHATEVER STATEMENTS THEY CHOSE, "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SHOULD HAVE AVOIDED MAKING THIS SORT OF LOUD PROTESTATION." IN RESPONSE TO THE "DIARIO 16" ALLEGATIONS, PSOE PRESS SECRETARY JAVIER SOLANA REPORTEDLY STATED THAT US DECLARATIONS ON THE SUBJECT CONSTITUTED "INTERFERENCE". HOWEVER, ON THE BASIS OF A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WE HAD JAN. 18 WITH SOLANA, THE PSOE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE PARTICULARLY EXERCISED ABOUT THE STATEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDS REASONS WHY THEY WERE MADE.

4. IT HAS BEEN THE PCE, OF COURSE, THAT HAS REACTED
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MOST NEGATIVELY. PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL SANTIAGO CARRILLO RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY THAT THE DECLARATIONS CONSTITUTED "INADMISSIBLE INTERFERENCE" IN INTERNAL SPANISH AFFAIRS. HE WENT ON TO CHARGE THAT THESE STATEMENTS INDICATED THAT NATO, RATHER THAN BEING A DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE, WAS AN INSTRUMENT USED BY THE US TO INTERFERE IN THE DOMESTIC POLITICS OF WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. IN RESPONSE TO THE "DIARIO 16" STORY, PCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SIMON SANCHEZ MONTERO ECHOED CARRILLO'S CHARGES OF U. S. INTERFERENCE, BUT DID NOT REITERATE THE ALLUSION TO NATO.

5. MEDIA REACTION, IN CONTRAST TO THAT OF THE PARTIES, HAS BEEN UNEVEN. RESPECTED "EL PAIS," ON JAN. 15 RAN A BITINGLY CRITICAL EDITORIAL IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENTS (TEXT REPORTED BY FBIS). THE ARTICLE STATED INTER ALIA THAT THEY CONSTITUTED "EVEN HARSHER" WARNINGS THAN THOSE EMANATING FROM THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION. "WHEN ONE IS AT THE HEAD OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, WITH A LONG HISTORY OF CONSPIRACIES, COUPS D'ETAT, AND EXPORTED WARS, ONE CANNOT EXPRESS THESE OPINIONS WITH CONSIDERATION ONLY FOR WHAT ONE IS SAYING

AND NOT FOR WHAT OTHER PEOPLE WILL HEAR...CARTER'S ATTITUDE EMPHASIZES THE FACT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS PALE BEFORE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DUAL WORLD IMPERIALISM AND UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MORAL DECLARATIONS BECOME OUTRIGHT HYPOCRISY."

6. IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE "EL PAIS" EDITORIAL, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE MARIA DE AREILZA WROTE, IN A PAGE LONG EDITORIAL IN CONSERVATIVE "ABC," THAT "THE US HAS BROUGHT ATTENTION--PERHAPS WITH EXCESSIVE FORCE-- TO THE RISK OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS HAVING

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A SAY IN VARIOUS GOVT." AND WHY ALL THE FUSS, AREILZA ASKS SINCE "THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE OF THE WEST RESTS ON A FEW PRINCIPLES AND POINTS OF SUPPORT. NOT A SINGLE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE MOSAIC OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INTEGRATED IN THE ATLANTIC MECHANISM MAY BE ALTERED WITHOUT SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE ENTIRE SYSTEM."

7. IN OTHER PRESS REACTION:

--GOVT-ORIENTED "ARRIBA" NOTED THAT US POLICY HAS
NOT CHANGED MUCH SINCE THE KISSINGER DAYS, ALTHOUGH
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MR. CARTER SHOULD KNOW THAT "EVERY COUNTRY IS FREE TO
DECIDE ABOUT ITS OWN FUTURE USING DEMOCRATIC MEANS,
SOMETHING THE MAN WHO ENTERED INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC LIFE
AS THE MAXIMUM DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD REALIZE. "

--CENTRIST "INFORMACIONES" CONCLUDED THAT
COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE ITALIAN GOVT WOULD
ENHANCE SPAIN'S VALUE TO NATO AND INCREASE THE PRESSURES
FOR IT TO JOIN. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID00683
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780029-0469
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780146/aaaabmer.tel
Line Count: 190
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 73e93be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3748589
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO USG STATEMENTS ON COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WEST EUROPEAN GOVTS
TAGS: PEPR, US, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/73e93be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014